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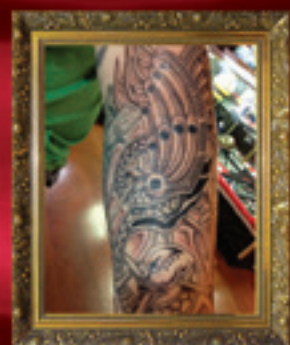


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BEFORE WE
BEGIN

Follow me on Twitter >> @VGBranded.



“I AM NOT THE MAN YOU
SEE, I AM THE SOUL THAT
LIVES IN ME.”

Searching for a job? Meeting a girlfriend or boyfriend's family for the first time? Trying to get into any one of the branches of the armed forces? Better not have tattoos showing below a certain point or, maybe, have any tattoos at all.

You may be judged or, worse yet, not hired.

I think it's safe to say that I have an obsession with tattoos and I have now made it my passion to search out the good people adorned with beautiful work and showcase them to you.

It's a way of shedding a positive light on what may otherwise be ignored or not credited simply because of how someone may look.

Some of the most amazing people I've ever met are heavily tattooed, majorly successful and living well.

Still, unless those tattoos are hidden and kept "under control," it can be deemed unacceptable and sometimes grounds for termination in the eyes of corporate America. Really?

Is it completely crazy of me to think that a person should be hired for a job based on their experience or ability to get the job done?

Is it more important that your daughter not date a guy with tattoos or is it more important that your daughter not date a jerk-off? Is it more important that a man or woman *be* a good soldier or just *look* like one?

I understand some people fear what they don't know. My answer to that is to take time to get to know someone.

Have a conversation with us "bad" tattooed folks. I promise it's just like talking to a normal person. It may even be more fun. Well, at least we're more fun to look at.

VICTOR GOMEZ,
CREATOR

SUBCULTURE

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June/July 2012 | Volume 1 Number 3

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ON THE COVER

Summer Mourgides, shot in Rochester in May 2012 by Rich Paprocki.

Subculture Magazine

34 Elton St.
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Q My fiancé and I recently had a daughter. She is 6 months old. I love having a family and I love my fiancé to death. However, our sex life has gone down the tubes. We don't ever have sex anymore. She's talked to her doctor and she keeps telling her to give it time. But I'm really struggling. My confidence is down and we fight all the time. Meanwhile, I have a co-worker who's become more flirtatious with me. She even asked me out for drinks. I feel like my mind is going crazy and I'm at a crossroads. Any advice?

—GUILTY IN GATES

Do not get drinks with this co-worker woman. Your fiancé is probably feeling a bit insecure about things, like her body, as well as your relationship. When a woman pushes a watermelon-sized person through her va-jay-jay, it changes her. It's usually temporary though – but it can take anywhere from a few months, up to a year and a half for her hormones to get right again.

Is no sex really the reason why you're fighting all the time? Having a baby can be incredibly stressful on a relationship. Finding yourselves again will take some time, and that includes making time for each other that doesn't involve watermelon-sized people.

Being there for her and reassuring her of your feelings are the best things that you can do for her. If you truly "love her to death" try to be patient and wait for her to get through what she's going through. You also need to keep the lines of communication open with her. Have you told her that your confidence is down? Maybe she doesn't realize how things have affected you.

Is one night of drinks with someone you're obviously attracted to worth losing your new family over? Not to mention you work with this girl, and if something does happen, you have to see her every day, which is a whole other letter...

And above all, remember: **DO NOT GET DRINKS WITH THIS CO-WORKER WOMAN.**



If you'd like Susie Q's advice on your relationship, sex or dating life, email her at loveq@subcultureny.com.

A SOCIAL STUDY

We test out five new social networks to see if any of them may be the new Foursquare

BY EMILY SHEARING

PATH



WHAT IT IS:

Much like an online journal,

Path lets you share where you are, what you're up to and even what music you're listening to. You can use status updates, photos, maps and videos to document your day with friends. I joined Path about six months ago but quickly gave up on it. Although the idea of sharing everything in one place makes sense, not enough friends signed up. Sharing every moment of your day with no one but yourself? Well, that's just sad.

COST: Free

WORKS ON: Web (path.com), iPhone, iPad, Android

GOGOBOT



WHAT IT IS:

A combination of Pinterest and Instagram, users

can share postcards of

photographs they've taken while traveling. The app features photo filters to personalize the postcards and you can browse users around the world and leave ratings. There's also a feature to plan out a trip and save places on the map you want to visit. This was the social network I was most excited to test out and it didn't disappoint. A must have for those with a serious case of wanderlust – and an affinity for oversharing.

COST: Free

WORKS ON: Web (gogobot.com), iPhone, iPad

FORECAST



WHAT IT IS: If Foursquare was a

movie, Forecast would be the prequel. This app alerts friends where you plan to go. By letting them know you plan to be at the Bug Jar tomorrow night, the idea is they will show up.

COST: Free

WORKS ON: iPhone, iPad, Android

BANJO



WHAT IT IS: This simple social network

connects with your Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Foursquare accounts to alert you when your friends are nearby. I have one friend on Banjo. I'd much prefer to text her.

COST: Free

WORKS ON: iPhone, Android

HIGHLIGHT



WHAT IT IS:

Besides the seizure-

inducing logo for this newbie social network, the premise of Highlight is actually quite intriguing. The app connects through your Facebook page and uses your current location to search for other awesome people nearby. If someone you have interests in common with or a friend is nearby, the app sends you a notification. Although push notifications are almost as annoying as that voicemail your mom leaves you once a week to make sure you're not having a nervous breakdown, these aren't nearly as obnoxious.

COST: Free

WORKS ON: iPhone, iPad



MUST-READ

War Paint: Tattoo Culture & the Armed Forces, Kyle Cassidy

Many of us have older relatives who have served in the arm forces and wear those experiences on their skin. The tattoos may be dull and faded, but the stories behind them are timeless. In his new book, photographer Kyle Cassidy breathes visual life into the stories behind many veterans' ink. —Troy L. Smith

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THE SCENE

ONE CRAZY RIDE

Lovin' Cup Idol's latest winner uses Gnarl's Barkley to find his way back to music.

The way he hit the stage and absolutely slayed Gnarl's Barkley's megahit "Crazy," you'd think Lovin' Cup Idol winner Alphonso Williams had been planning his grand finale for quite some time. Not the case.

"I pulled 'Crazy' out at the last second," he says. "I knew everyone would know that song, but it turned out way better than I planned."

Williams says he spent a lot of late nights agonizing over his set for Lovin' Cup Idol's finale. But it was that performance of "Crazy," driven by Williams' pitch-perfect voice and acoustic guitar, that helped him edge out fellow finalist Evyn Grassl.

This year's Lovin' Cup Idol was easily the closest contest in the three year

history of the event. Williams made it to the semi-finals two years ago, but skipped out on last year's competition.

"I never really planned on ever doing it again," he says. "But I had wanted to get back into music again so I thought that it could be just the right thing to get me back into the scene."

Williams' music journey has always been a modest one. A self-proclaimed quiet kid growing up, he started playing guitar during his senior year at Eastridge High School.

Williams moved to New York City after high school to study musical theater for



a semester. He eventually returned to Rochester where he began performing his own original tunes in 2009. However, things have clearly picked up since Lovin' Cup Idol.

"I've been really busy and am now doing things much more frequently," says Williams. "It still feels unreal. I'm happy and feel so blessed to have had such a great opportunity and am excited for wherever life takes me next."

—Troy L. Smith

ALPHONSO WILLIAMS: COURTESY OF KEITH WILLIAMS PHOTOGRAPHY; BEER: COURTESY OF CUSTOM BREWCRAFTERS.

GOOD LIBATIONS

ON FRIDAY, JUNE 15, Rochester will embark on its first beer week. The week, officially titled Rochester Real Beer Week, will feature around 40 events at more than 20 participating bars.

Rochester Real Beer Week stems from the first Rochester Beer Expo held last year near Tap and Mallet on Gregory Street. Tap and Mallet bar manager Chris Schultheis, lead organizer for beer week, says the event showed just how passionate Rochesterians are about their beer.

"We've had four new breweries pop up with the last two years with Three Heads Brewing, Naked Dove, Roc Brewing and Rogers Beer, to go along with Custom Brewcrafters and Rohrbach," says Schultheis. "I think a lot of people have turned out to support local beer."

The concept of beer week is nothing

new. Major cities like Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco have held similar celebrations for years.

Rochester's beer week will kick off Friday night with the launch of Three Heads Brewing's new Cobb's Hill beer at Tap and Mallet, and a concert at Sticky Lips BBQ Juke Joint. Things will wrap up Saturday, June 23, with a concert at Lovin' Cup sponsored by Saranac Brewing.

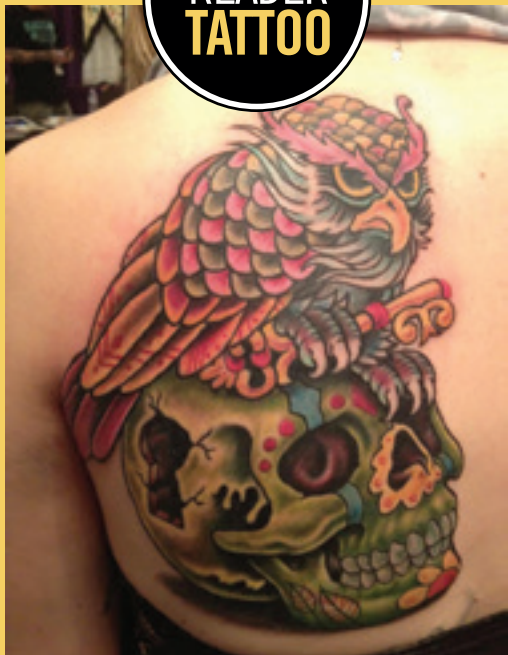
Schultheis says the event is already poised to grow by 50 percent in next, as he's already taking calls from bars who want to be involved.

—Peter German



SHOW & TELL

READER TATTOO



LAUREN DESIMONE, CHILI

Tattoo by Dan Ross of Art to Zen Tattoo



For more info on Rochester Real Beer Week, visit rochesterrealbeer.com.

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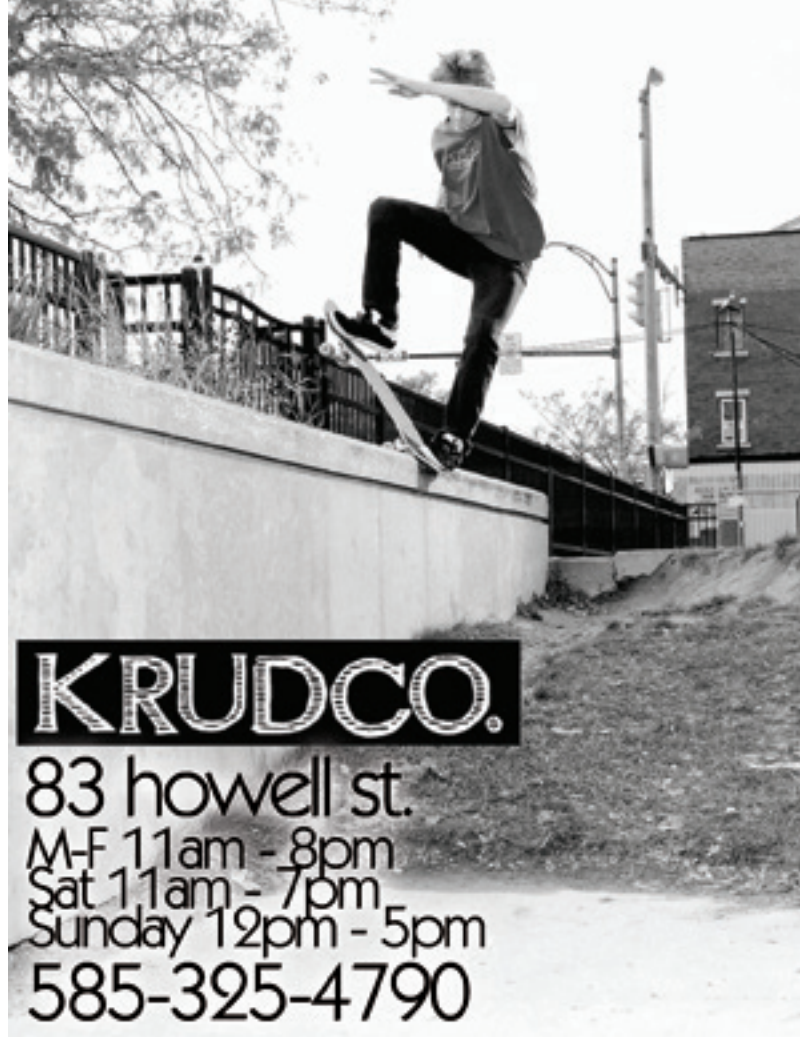
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PLAYLIST

BY TROY L. SMITH



DVD/BLU-RAY

Breaking Bad: The Complete Fourth Season

If the first few seasons of *Breaking Bad* were about a chemistry teacher turned meth dealer towing the moral line between good and bad, Season 4 certainly finds him crossing that line. If you're a fan of the show, you've met Walter White and seen the tortured soul hinted at during the first season all but consume him. Rarely, if ever, has a show executed such a transformation more brilliantly.

(June 5, Sony Pictures Home Entertainment)



MOVIES

The Dark Knight Rises

The final installment of Christopher Nolan's Batman saga may be the most anticipated film of all-time. That's enough pressure to make just about any director quake in his boots. But Nolan's made a career out of his own unique vision (*Memento*, *Inception*, etc.). Fanboys may wonder if Batman will meet his doom, or if anyone will be able to understand a word the villainous Bane says. Just trust you're in good hands with Nolan.

(July 20, Warner Bros. Pictures)



MUSIC

Fiona Apple The Idler Wheel...

Here's hoping that the music on Fiona Apple's upcoming album is far less perplexing than its title – *The Idler Wheel is wiser than the Driver of the Screw, and Whipping Cords will serve you more than Ropes will ever do*. It has been seven years since Apple released her last album, 2005's stellar *Extraordinary Machine*. So we're willing to give her some leeway on the new title. Even if we can't say it five times in a row without tripping up.

(June 19, Epic Records)



SPOTLIGHT ON

THUNDER BODY

THE MOST HIGH-PROFILE GIG for any local band in Rochester may be the opening spot on the East Avenue and Alexander Street Stage during the last night of the Rochester International Jazz Festival. This year, that spot goes to Thunder Body. The upstart reggae band will open up for New Orleans musician Trombone Shorty on June 30.

Thunder Body has been one of the busiest acts in Rochester over the past two years. The band was founded in 2010 by former Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad members, singer/drummer Matt O'Brian and keyboardist Rachel Orke.

Thunder Body has already made a name for itself thanks to old-school reggae anthems like "Must Have Been Easy" and "Come What May," which pleasantly incorporates elements of funk and rock. Even after landing a major showcase like the Jazz Fest, the best of Thunder Body may be yet to come. You get the sense that they're just warming up. —Erica Hastings

STUFF

BY ANDRE WALKER



DRE SAYS...WHAT'S HOT



For more of what Dre likes, visit DreSays.com.



THE BEST OF AIR JORDAN RETRO 2012 SUMMER RELEASES

This is what I like to call my sneaker weakness. In June you have the Retro 4 in military blue, natural gray and white plus the Jordan Retro 12 in a French blue, university blue and white. In July, the classic Jordan Olympic 7 will drop just in time for the 2012 summer Olympics, and in August you'll get the Retro 4 in white, black and red. (Prices vary, nike.com)



SUPREME X COMME DES GARÇONS X VANS SK8-HI & ERA

Following the announcement of the Supreme and Comme des Garçon line of button-downs, hoodies and tees, there was an announcement that was a little more intriguing – the future release of a triple threat drop of two of Vans' best styles: the Sk8-Hi and the Era. They're scheduled to drop in June, so keep your eyes peeled. (Price TBA, shop.vans.com)



CONVERSE CHUCK TAYLOR ALL STAR HI "LINEN"

I know you didn't think I was going to leave out the Chuck T's. You can't have a summer sneaker lineup without a good pair. This is the premium style "Linen," with a leather-wrapped midsole, toe box, Nubuck logo and army green laces. All I will say is: Camo shorts, people, camo shorts! (\$125, converse.com)



NIKE LEBRON 9 P.S. ELITE SOUTH BEACH

On June 2, the LeBron James 9 P.S. Elite dropped in its best colorway of the year, with South Beach flavor. It's bursting with bright mint-candy, new green and pink flash, which sets off the wolf-grey base. If you didn't plan on getting these, you should rethink your love of footwear. These are a definite must-have this summer. (\$250, nike.com)

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Photo of Peg Stroud by Troy L. Smith

PORTFOLIO

ARTIST
PROFILE

PEG STROUD

LADY LUCK TATTOO

BY TROY L. SMITH



+

>> TO SEE
a gallery of
Stroud's work, go
to SubcultureNY.com

AFTER 20 YEARS, Peg Stroud, owner of Lady Luck Tattoo in Canandaigua, still gets excited about a unique tattoo.

"I had a guy come to me recently who wanted a deer head with a banner that said dad, because he lost his father," says Stroud. "He said he wanted Christmas lights through the antlers because he lost his dad on Christmas Eve. I got excited, because I love doing something with a unique twist like that."

Like most veteran tattoo artists in Rochester, Stroud began tattooing in the early 1990s. It was quite a career change for the Livingston County native.

"Most of my peers were in the 20s when they took up tattooing," she says. "I was in my early 30s with two children and was the assistant manager at the bookstore at SUNY Geneseo."

The daughter in an artistic family, Stroud says art played a major role in throughout her life. She went on to study drama in college, while minoring in art.

Stroud fell off the artist path as she focused on raising a family. It wasn't until her husband at the time got into motorcycles and tattoos that she took a serious interest in the art form.

Stroud joined her husband for one of his tattoo sessions with Rochester tattoo icon Angelina, owner of Angelina's Cosmic Rainbow Tattoo Art. From there, Stroud was hooked.

"I had never been exposed by anything like that," she says. "I was so

inspired and taken by her art."

With Angelina as her unofficial mentor, Stroud began tattooing. In 1992, she took her first job at Physical Graffiti in Avon (now located in Greece).

Stroud worked at Physical Graffiti until 1996, when she began eyeing her own shop in the untapped market of Canandaigua.

"At the time there were no other shops in Ontario County," says Stroud. "I had to go through a lot of hoops. The town has very specific zoning laws about the kind of businesses that can be on Main Street. In the end, I was given a special permit to open this shop."

Stroud opened Lady Luck Tattoo in 1997 with herself and just one other artist in a small space on Main Street in Canandaigua.

Business has since picked up. Lady Luck's new location, just a few doors down from its previous one, now houses five artists.

"It's crazy now," says Stroud. "I could never foresee this. I only really envisioned having a small shop with maybe three artists."

Though she's busy managing the books, Stroud still tattoos four days a week. She says her greatest joy comes in making sure her customers have a great experience.

"Mostly, I try to be accommodating," she says. "If someone is asking me specifically to tattoo them, it's an honor. And I'll always think of it that way."

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PROFILES

SARI GABY

PORTRAIT ARTIST'S TALENT FOR CAPTURING FACES LEADS HER ON AN ART-FUELED ROLLER COASTER RIDE.

BY ERICA HASTINGS

IT WOULD BE EASY TO ASSUME THAT ART TEACHER SARI GABY HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN OUTGOING SPIRIT.

The bubbly personality and inviting nature that's become her trademark was once masked by a blanket of shyness.

"At first even teaching was terrifying for me," says Gaby. "I would literally have panic attacks."

Gaby began teaching 30 years ago, giving lessons in portraiture at Rochester's Memorial Art Gallery. She says it was teaching that brought out of her shell. Prior to that, Gaby's life as an artist was a rollercoaster ride that began at an early age.

"I think I discovered crayons

when I was 2 or 3 years old," she recalls. "I just knew I was going to be an artist from that moment on and never looked back."

But it wasn't until high school that Gaby realized how good of an artist she was. She found herself flipping her hobby of drawing famous musicians into a business.

"I would do these drawings of people like Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix, and people would say, 'I want one.'" says Gaby. "That's when I realized, 'Wow I'm good at this. I can make someone look recognizable with my art.'"

Gaby studied art at Monroe Community College for a semester, before dropping out to pursue a career in art and

photography. She made a living photographing musicians and painting the images she took.

Gaby's career got sidetracked along the way with a couple marriages and having three kids. However, she eventually caught a break when a friend and art teacher got her a job teaching drawing at the Memorial Art Gallery.

Sadly, Gaby's friend passed away. However, in his will, he left her all of his art supplies, giving Gaby the kick in the pants she needed.

She eventually took over teaching his portrait classes at the Memorial Art Gallery. Soon after, Gaby began doing commissioned portraits for fans and corporations.

"I would just watch people and see what their personality was like and what motivated them," says Gaby. "I've always been the most attracted to faces, rather than landscapes or anything like that."

Gaby has spent the past few years creating portraits and teaching out of her home studio, while still discovering new art forms.

Two years ago Gaby's daughters took her to get her first tattoo. She now has three of them.

"Tattooing is so new to me," Gaby says. "Looking at what these artists are doing, I'm like, 'Holy shit.' I think it's incredible. It's a total art form."



>> TO SEE MORE
of Gaby's work,
go to sarigabyart.blogspot.com.

PROFILES

BY KAITLIN MESMER

STREAKER RECORDS

ROCHESTER NATIVES TAKE RECORD LABEL FROM SHITTY VAN TO WARPED BUS.



ONE LONG, HOT DAY ON THE WARPED TOUR can be a grind for the most dedicated of fans. So imagine doing it 40 times a year.

That's pretty much been a way of life the past half-decade for Jason Sarkis and Rob DPiazza, who run Rochester-based Streaker Records with somewhat-silent partner Jack Flynn.

Streaker is a one-stop shop for music distribution, publishing, promotion and apparel that was founded in 2007. The company began as a side-project of Rochester-band The Sunstreak, which featured Sarkis on bass and Flynn on guitar.

Streaker is now its own entity with 10 bands on its record label and publishing divisions. The list includes Rochester acts Avenue You and Storm The Bay, as well as Australia-based hardcore-band Amberain.

The Warped Tour serves as the main vehicle for Streaker to promote its acts. DPiazza and Sarkis have spent the past few summers sleeping in a 1994 Ford Windstar van, while selling tons of t-shirts, CDs and short-shorts.

"We went 17 days last year without taking a shower," says Sarkis. "We basically lived in Wal-Mart parking lots. I'd be in the bathroom, washing my feet in the sink as people walked in."

All the hard work has paid off. This year Streaker is making its rounds on Warped in a tour bus equipped with showers and sleeping quarters. The bus should help counter act the long haul of the tour. However, it can't counteract DPiazza and Sarkis' seniority.

Sarkis turns 30 later this year while DPiazza isn't too far behind at 28. That's a far cry from Warped Tour's average age range of 16 to 21.

"I think I must be getting older because I'm losing track of the music," says Sarkis. "In the past five or six years there's been bands headlining the tour that I've never even heard of. And, yet, it's just gotten bigger and bigger every year."

DPiazza says the entire journey has been a pleasant surprise. Streaker began as a promotional vehicle, but has become a full-time job for DPiazza who recently moved to Hawaii, giving the label a wider reach.

"We didn't think it would last more than a year," says DPiazza. "We thought it would be something that would just hold us over until The Sunstreak got back up and going. Then it started to seem like viable career option. And here we are."

+

» FOR MORE on Streaker Records, go to www.facebook.com/streakerrecords.



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JUNE/JULY
**COVER
STORY**

SUMMER GIRL

WE PHOTOGRAPHED THIS ISSUE'S COVER GIRL SUMMER MOURGIDES ON A BRIGHT SUNNY DAY AS THE ROCHESTER WEATHER HEATED UP. THEN SHE HEADED OFF TO THE SANDS OF NEGRIL, JAMAICA, FOR VACATION. THERE, SHE FOUND TIME WHILE SITTING ON THE BEACH TO FILL IN THE BLANKS.

STORY BY TROY L. SMITH
PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER CARDWELL







JUNE/JULY
2012

MEET OUR COVER GIRL

My name is Summer and I love the fact that I am filling in the blanks as I sit in the sun on a beach in Negril with a Red Stripe in hand. Life is good. :)

I make people feel good for a living. I'm a licensed massage therapist and a bartender at Lux Lounge.

I've always thought that everything happens for a reason and karma can be a bitch.

I listen to The Roots, reggae, Bob Marley when I'm scattered because it grounds me.

I'm scared to death of closed, tight spaces. I need to spread out and breathe.

I think we should legalize marijuana. It is an herb from the earth that generally relaxes people and heals. What's wrong with that?

If I ruled the world... Well, I wouldn't want to rule the world we live in. I don't believe in a ruler. People should live equally and respectfully as one people.

I will never ever say never. What will be, will be.

The best advice I've ever received was make yourself and don't allow anyone to take your spirit, and that came from my brother Jet, which trickled down from momma and papa.

My body is beautifully decorated (and my husband's temple, according to him).

OK, so this one time... hmmmm, where do I even begin?



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WARPED TOUR PREVIEW

Nearly 100 bands on seven stages. Need help sorting it out? Here are 15 acts – some no-brainers and a few surprises – you don't wanna miss at this year's Warped Tour, which hits Darien Lake on July 17.



WARPED
TOUR'S

DESERVING HEADLINER TAKING BACK SUNDAY

Forget all the bands and all the stages. Each year on Warped Tour there is one true headliner.

In 2009, it was 3OH!3 and their massive hit "Don't Trust Me." In 2010, it was The All-American Rejects proving they have a lot of youthful energy left. And last year, A Day to Remember carried the torch as Gym Class Heroes and Paramore played just a few select dates.

Though 2012's lineup features a number of name acts, headliner status undoubtedly rests with **Taking Back Sunday**.

The band has not played Warped since its back-to-back runs on the 2003 and 2004 tours. Back then, TBS was still riding high on its much beloved debut *Tell All Your Friends*, but the band was

entering a new chapter.

Lead-guitarist John Nolan and bassist Shaun Cooper left and though Taking Back Sunday released the respectable sophomore album *Where you Want To Be*, things were never the same.

Sure, you could make the case that 2006's *Louder Now* and 2009's *New Again* rivaled anything the group had done up until that point. Yet, both albums seemed to exist in the shadow of *Tell All Your Friends*.

That brings us to the present. Nolan and Cooper are back, reuniting of the five men who brought us that unforgettable debut. And if the release of last year's self-titled album didn't adequately capture what the return of Taking Back Sunday means, the band's live tour certainly did.

It was easy to see a group of musicians that had come full circle while progressing far beyond their youthful years. Those live shows all but served as a warm up to Warped Tour, where Taking Back Sunday can take a much deserved bow for the consistency they never quite got enough credit for. —Sean Perez



WARPED TOUR'S WEIRDEST GIMMICK VAMPIRES EVERYWHERE!

If you thought the vampire craze of the past few years affected just film and television, you'd be wrong.

Vampires Everywhere! stays true to its theme of the undead in everything from its song titles ("Immortal Love," "Undead Heart," etc.) to the members' unique monikers (the lead singer goes by Michael Vampire). Vampire (born Michael

Orlando) founded the band in 2009, influenced not by *Twilight*, but by 1980s cult classic *The Lost Boys*.

Vampires Everywhere!'s music is just as risky as its persona, blending metalcore, screamo, electronic dance music and auto-tune. It's sure draw intrigue at Warped Tour stops, though it may be a little hot for fangs.

—Kaitlin Mesmer



WARPED TOUR'S GIRL POWER DEAD SARA



This year will mark Los Angeles band **Dead Sara's** first time playing on Warped Tour. But front-woman Emily Armstrong spent her teenage years taking notes as a spectator.

"We would go to the tour and see bands like Rancid, The Used, Andrew W.K.," recalls Armstrong. "The hot sun and lots of bands. It was so much fun."

Those influences can be seen in Dead Sara's performances, typically highlighted by a seemingly possessed Armstrong and dressed like Kurt Cobain, while looking ready to roll around in the mud with the boys.

Dead Sara's energetic live shows have earned the band fans, while its self-titled debut album has won over critics. The forceful vulnerability in Armstrong's wale, along with guitarist Siouxsie Medley's ability to create epic guitar riffs has drawn the group praise from MTV and Rolling Stone.

"It's nice to receive some sort of acknowledgment after lots of work," says Armstrong. "We must be doing something right."

Armstrong and Medley have been playing together since their teens. The duo hit their stride with Dead Sara once they brought on bassist Chris Null and drummer Sean Friday.

The band is coming off of a standout performance at this year's South by Southwest festival. Now the only question that remains is can the quartet maintain its high octane pace for an entire Warped Tour?

"I guess we'll have to see," says Armstrong. "I believe we can, if we keep hydrated." —Troy L. Smith



PARTY STARTERS BREATHE CAROLINA

Electronic dance/rock duo Breathe Carolina played Warped in 2009 and 2010 as mostly unknown to mainstream audiences. This summer should provide a very different experience.

The Denver act, comprised of Kyle Even and David Schmitt will hit Warped Tour's main stage on the heels of a gold album (*Hell is What You Make It*) and its single "Blackout" on the verge of going platinum. The song is the duo's first full-on electronic dance song and has gotten so much airplay that even Schmitt and Even have become numb to it.

"We wrote that song back at the end of 2010," says Schmitt. "It used to be when it came on we were so stoked to hear it on the radio. Now we can barely listen to it anymore."

Breathe Carolina broke through in 2008 after streaming tunes on MySpace that eventually generated more than 30 million plays. Still, gaining acceptance for its mix of electronic dance grooves and scream rock was a struggle.

"No one in Denver was really doing what we were doing back then," recalls Schmitt. "Even sound guys and roadies during sound checks would be like, 'What the heck is this?' It's crazy how things have changed."

—Troy L. Smith



"Even sound guys and roadies during sound checks would be like, 'What the heck is this?' It's crazy how things have changed."

—David Schmitt of Breathe Carolina



WARPED TOUR'S MOST WTF NAME

On a tour that features acts like Mighty Mongo, Oh No Fiasco and Chunk! No, Captain Chunk! you have to really try and set yourself apart when it comes to the name game.

But there's just something about the name **iwrestledabearonce** that makes you say WTF just a little more than the others.

The metal band from Louisiana's name comes courtesy of a quote from actor Gary Busey during the short lived Comedy Central show *I'm with Busey*.

The name doesn't mean anything, but it does draw attention to iwrestledabearonce's equally intriguing music.

The band's high-energy brand of avant-garde metal showcases traditional metalcore while a sprinkle of echo-filled harmonies.

It's a musical onslaught with a soft, but trippy landing.
—Sean Perez



WARPED TOUR'S



YELLOWCARD

SEASONED VETS

This year's tour will lean on a number of veteran acts who paid their dues on Warped Tour. Here's a look at how far they've come since their Warped debuts:

NEW FOUND GLORY

Then: By the time New Found Glory made its Warped Tour debut in 2001, the Florida-band had already become a bit of an underground sensation to its breakthrough self-titled album and its first major single "Hit or Miss."

Now: NFG went on to become mainstay on TRL with videos for hits like "My Friends Over You." These days the band isn't as big as it once was, but its impact on the pop-punk genre remains visible in about half the bands on Warped Tour.

YELLOWCARD

Then: Yellowcard was floating around under-the-radar for a half-decade before making its first Warped Tour debut in 2002.

Now: The band hasn't had a major radio hit in seven years. Still, expect Yellowcard to have a solid crowd draw on Warped thanks to pop-punk standards like "Ocean Avenue" or "Way Away."

ALL TIME LOW

Then: Sometimes a band's buzz reaches its peak right as the Warped Tour comes around. That was the case in 2007 with All Time Low. Soon-to-be fan favorites like "Six Feet Under the Stars" and "Dear Maria, Count Me In" had kids flocking stages nationwide.

Now: All Time Low's 2007 album *So Wrong, It's Right* propelled the band into the mainstream. The guys did not play a substantial role in the last two Warped Tours, so expect All Time Low's return to be a welcomed one.

SENSES FAIL

Then: All Senses Fail had to its name in 2002 was an EP on Drive-Thru Records and a few opening gigs for bands like The Used and The Starting Line.

Now: Senses Fail has compiled quite the catalogue since its first Warped Tour, including four straight albums that landed in the top half the Billboard charts. The

band's first greatest hits album drops this summer.

WE THE KINGS

Then: Thanks to the success of the mainstream radio hit "Check Yes Juliet," We The Kings' debut on Warped Tour in 2008 became one of the biggest events at each tour stop.

Now: We The Kings' popularity has waned a bit, but the group's duet with *Camp Rock* star Demi Lovato has given the Florida-quintet a broader audience.

EVERY TIME I DIE

Then: This year marks the 10th anniversary of bands that made their Warped Tour debut in 2002. Back in 2002, the Buffalo's Every Time I Die was still year out from releasing its breakthrough *Hot Damn!*

Now: Every Time I Die has become one of the biggest draws on Warped. Last year's *Ex Lives* debuted in the top 20 on the Billboard 200. —Sean Perez

"The way I get things done is to take them on, not really knowing how I'm going to pull it off, and just do it."

—Anthony Raneri



WARPED TOUR'S BIGGEST GO-GETTER ANTHONY RANERI

Anthony Raneri doesn't have a strategy for how he plans to pull double duty on this year's Warped Tour.

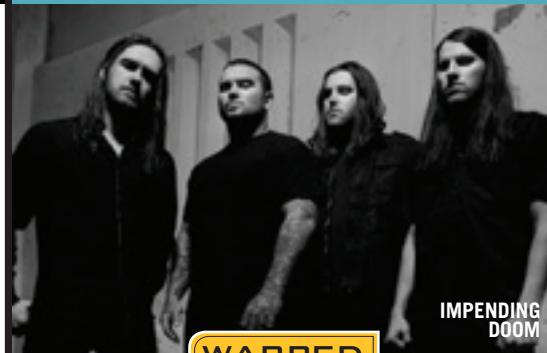
"The way I get things done is to take them on, not really knowing how I'm going to pull it off, and just do it," he says. "That's how I approach everything."

Most people know Raneri as the frontman for Queens punk-rock band Bayside, which will be playing on this year's Tilly's/Alternative Press Stage. However, fans will also get a taste of singer's softer side as he also plans to perform on the tour's new Acoustic Basement Stage.

For many in attendance it will be their

first time hearing the songs from Raneri's solo EP, *New Cathedrals*, which he self-released in January. Going unplugged is nothing new for Raneri, as some of Bayside's acoustic work is among its most popular (see "Winter" or "MEGAN"). However, Raneri's solo material remains a big departure from Bayside.

"Some of the songs I write don't really turn out to be songs I can use for Bayside," he says. "These songs wound up being very different, like country or folk songs. I was worried people would be expecting just acoustic Bayside songs, but the response has been overwhelmingly positive." —Troy L. Smith



IMPENDING DOOM

WARPED
TOUR'S

HIDDEN GEMS

California's **Impending Doom** calls its brand of Christian music "Gorship," which apparently consists of worshipping God through thunderous guitar riffs, massive drum patterns and lyrics like "I am a murderer!" It's a seemingly contradictory style that's sure to be blaring from the Warped Tour's Kevin Says Stage.

The space for young white emcees in today's hip-hop scene is getting a little crowded. What separates Oakland-bred **G-Eazy** from the pack could be his love for the golden oldies. His catchiest tunes have featured samples of "Runaround Sue" and The Crystals' "He's a Rebel."

With Fall Out Boy on hiatus and Paramore doing whatever it is the remaining members of Paramore are doing, the pop-punk torch has been handed to upstart acts like **Fireworks**. The Detroit five-piece blends old-fashioned rock 'n' roll with the upbeat, light-hearted nature of early Fall Out Boy — "If you feel your lake overflowing, I will drink your water." Yeah, Pete Wentz would definitely write that. —Erica Hastings



BAYSIDE

WARPED
TOUR'S

WILD CHILD MACHINE GUN KELLY



There are two sides of the fence when it comes to Machine Gun Kelly.

There's the overhyped version of MGK, bolstered by a highly publicized signing to Diddy's Bad Boy Records and being named the "Hottest Breakthrough MC of 2011" by MTV.

Then there's the very talented artist who comes as close to

justifying such hype. For proof, check out MGK's explosive verse during last year's BET Hip Hop Awards cypher where he spits, "This white boy just bodied Black Entertainment Television."

For any breakthrough hip-hop artist, there's usually a conflict. With Machine Gun Kelly, it lies between the "Wild Boy" rapper with massive mainstream appeal and the Ohio-born white boy

seeking street cred. MGK probably doesn't care as he continues to make unique music with a fuck-the-industry mentality that makes him all the more likable. Maybe that's what he means by "Kobain's back."

—Troy L. Smith





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TWO NIGHTS A
WEEK. I HAVE MY
SET DAYS WHERE
ALL US OLD DUDES
GET TOGETHER.”**



AARON COSTA

OWNER OF KRUDCO. SKATESHOP

STORY BY TROY L. SMITH | PHOTO BY CHRIS CARDWELL

Aaron Costa opened Krudco. Skateshop above his father's tire store some 18 years ago. And over the years, the little skate shop that could (now located near Monroe Avenue) has become the epicenter of Rochester's skate scene.

When it comes to skating, Costa has seen and done it all. We sat down with the 38-year-old to find out how his business has evolved and how he finds time to skate in-between changing diapers.

How has skating changed since you opened up shop 18 years ago?

It's way more popular now and it's all encompassing. Everyone does it. It's not just a group of punk kids anymore. More people have opened up to it because of snowboarding, the X Games and all the contests that are online, and on TV now.

How important were the X Games?

The X Games and the focus on Tony Hawk sparked a new, younger customer base. All of sudden, everyone wanted a Tony Hawk board. He was the first skater that was a household name. Then skating hit the mainstream culture hard. The moms out in suburbia, who wouldn't let their kid skateboard, were now like 'Oh, that's ok. Go for it.' It wasn't just for us punk kids anymore.

What was Aaron the punk kid like?

He was a lot more outspoken and generally a little asshole. When people would kick us out of places I would yell back and say screw you.

Where did you skate when you were younger?

There really were no parks around here growing up. They did bus trips out to Canada and other places around. In Rochester, there were backyard mini

ramps. We skated on Lowden Point Road, where I grew up, on the tennis courts and basketball courts. We would drag stuff onto the courts to do tricks. As we got more adventurous, we would fan out all over Ridge Road in Greece near the malls, K-Mart and even down into Kodak.

Have the tattoo and skate cultures always gone hand-in-hand?

The two cultures definitely mesh. Even when I was a kid, some of the rocker skaters had tattoos. I got a tattoo because of my grandfather. He was a navy guy. It's all faded out now, but I thought that was the coolest thing. Then as I got into skateboarding and punk rock, I started to see more tattoos.

What kind of injuries have you suffered from skating?

I fractured my pelvis once. I've popped my shoulder out three times. I cracked my shoulder bone. I have bruised and sore knees. I've had twisted ankles. I bruised my elbow just the other night actually.

So you still skate?

Yeah. I skate maybe two nights a week. I have my set days where all us old dudes get together. I don't skate nearly as well

or as much as I used to. I'm married and the baby is the thing that really takes precedent now. All of a sudden my days off and my life aren't all about skating.

How has the shop changed over the years?

You're getting a lot more inner city kids coming in, as opposed to just suburban kids. The guys from Odd Future helped out a lot with that. And back when The Pack did that "Vans" song, you'd get a lot of kids coming in saying, 'I need the new Vans.'

Did you ever imagine back in 1994 that you'd be open this long?

No way. I thought I would be done in two or three years.

Has being a business owner gotten easier or harder?

Back then it was a different kind of hard. I was running around doing a lot of deliveries. The way things are now and the way things have advanced, it's more about making sure all the bills are paid and everybody here is taken care of. We just opened an online store, which is a whole other headache. The times change and so does business.

THE GIRL WITH THE *ringmaster* TATTOO

LANNIE TRAN

FROM Rochester. **ARTIST** Ben Wight of Love Hate Tattoo.

"I got this tattoo seven years ago. It's a Mark Ryden piece I chose to get for my sister who shares the same birthday as Abraham Lincoln. Mark Ryden is a talented/twisted artist; one of my favorites. I actually have three Mark Ryden pieces tattooed on me.

My sister was born on February 12, same as Lincoln. He's her favorite president and I've always looked up to my sister. Abe's juggling a little monkey that I had thrown into the tattoo to complete the connection to my sister's birthday. She was born 1980, the year of the monkey. Call it corny but it's better than having a name tattooed on you."



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